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ABSTRACT

This booklet summarizes fiscal year 1985 activities of the Library of Congress (LC) in eight areas: (1) collection development, activities of the Copyright Office, housing, and access; (2) automation; (3) preservation, notably the Mass Book Deacidification Facility and the Optical Disk Pilot Program; (4) services to Congress performed by the Congressional Research Service; (5) Law Library services; (6) services provided to other branches of government; (7) services to the public, including the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; and (8) public programs such as exhibits, symposia, dramatic readings, music performances, lectures, motion picture screenings, and folk art demonstrations. Photographs accompany the text throughout the publication. (KM)

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The Library of Congress 1985

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The Library of Congress 1985

A Brief Summary of the Major Activities
for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1985

Library of Congress Washington 1986

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The Year at a Glance

In fiscal 1985 the Library of Congress:

- Welcomed 2,806,111 library users and visitors
- Had a total of 83,770,703 items in its collections, including–

  13,757,631 books in the classified collections

  8,388,818 nonclassified books, pamphlets, technical reports, and other printed materials

  3,694,256 musical works

  1,091,732 recorded discs, tapes, and audio materials in other formats

  36,154,097 manuscripts

  3,830,566 maps

  6,297,601 microfiche, microfilms, and micro-opaques

  10,556,002 motion pictures, photographs, posters, prints, drawings, videotapes, and other visual materials

- Prepared 844 bibliographies containing a total of 121,902 entries
- Aided scholars and researchers by circulating 3,339,677 volumes for use within the Library
- Answered 1,008,488 inquiries in person, 124,823 by mail, and 522,807 by telephone through reference specialists
- Completed 457,837 research assignments for the Congress through the Congressional Research Service
- Maintained an automated copyright monograph file of 4,394,725 index terms in addition to the 45 million cards held in the copyright catalog
- Had a total of more than 12 million records in computer databases, with seventy-one computer terminals accessible to the public at various locations in the Library
- Employed a staff of 5,274
- Operated on a budget of $228,242,000 from the Congress in direct appropriations, $10,300,000 in fees from the Cataloging Distribution Service and Copyright Office, and $7,461,664 in obligations from gift and trust funds.

The World's Largest Storehouse of Knowledge

The comprehensive collections policy and vast holdings of the Library of Congress have brought it to a position of world preeminence as a storehouse of knowledge. It is the only institution that has attempted to collect the entire record of man's intellectual and cultural achievements in all languages and throughout all periods of history.

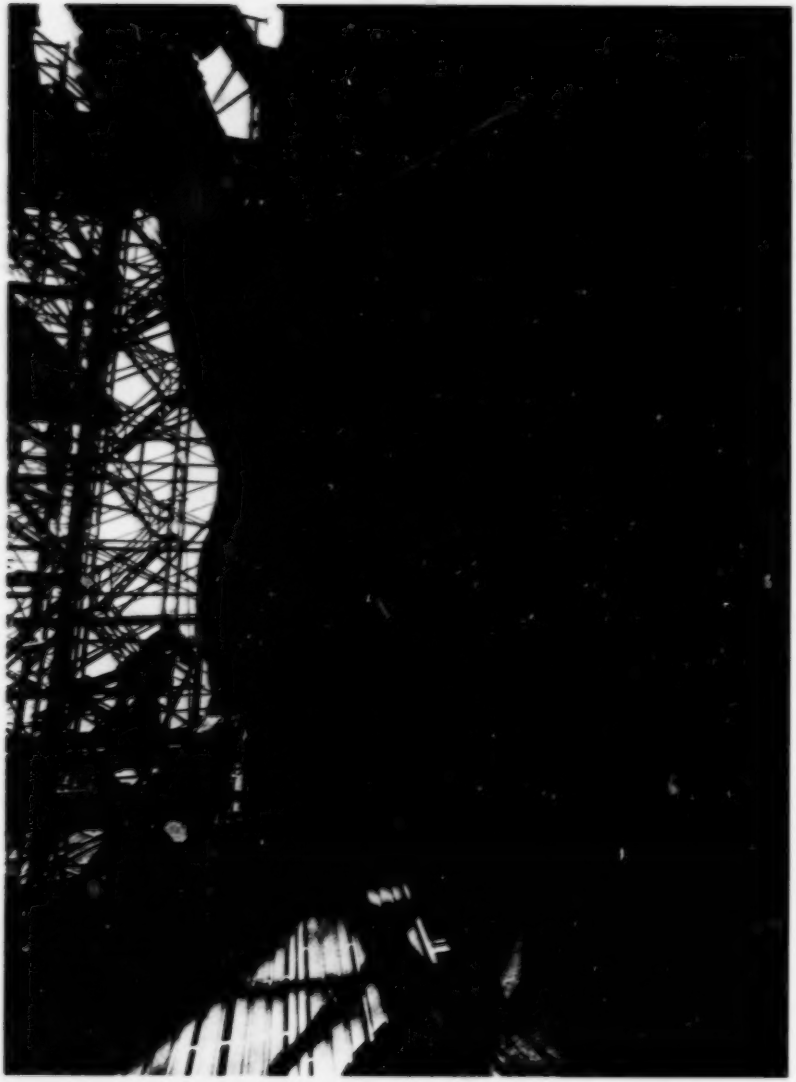
The Library's collections number more than 81 million items in over 470 languages and occupy more than 535 miles of bookshelves. Once a visitor has pondered these staggering statistics for a few moments, he or she frequently asks such questions as: How do you decide what to collect? How do you store and preserve it all? How do you find a specific book in the collections? How long does it take for a reader to obtain material? Who can use the collections?

This brief report will answer some of these questions and highlight a variety of the Library's programs, with particular emphasis on fiscal year 1985. Since the Library is supported by public money and is accountable to the Congress and the nation, the Librarian of Congress is required by law to issue a detailed annual report of activities and expenditures. For those who wish to know more about the Library, the full report is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

The Collections

The Library of Congress does not collect indiscriminately. Its Collections Development Office exercises leadership in formulating policies and coordinating activities for the acquisition, selection, control, and custody of the collections. Since acquisitions are affected by worldwide economic, political, and social transitions, these policies and practices are under constant review by the Library administration. Acquisitions policy must also take into consideration the increasing variety of available media.

In carrying out its task this year the Collections Development Office continued its seminars on acquisitions from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mongolia, held a seminar devoted to the five southernmost countries of South America, and conducted seminars covering Mexico, Spain, and Portugal and the Arabic-speaking countries of North Africa and the Middle East. Six additional seminars will complete the office's worldwide review.



Restoration of the Statue of Liberty was photographed by Jet Lowe in May 1984 for the Historic American Engineering Record. The HAER collection was transferred to the Library of Congress this year from the Department of the Interior.

Available funds have made it possible for the Library to purchase an impressive selection of rare books, fine prints, antique maps, musical and literary manuscripts, and outstanding foreign television productions. Notable acquisitions from various sources include an

important group of early letters by Walt Whitman, a gift of 315 original caricature drawings and prints from the Alfred Bendiner Foundation of Philadelphia, and a browse file for Landsat and aerial photographic images taken by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Geologic Survey, the National Ocean Service, and the Department of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. The Library also received the papers of Patricia Roberts Harris, former cabinet officer and ambassador to Luxembourg; catalogs of the Bibliothèque Nationale needed to complete its series; and 100 reels of microfilm reproducing the Chicago Yiddish newspaper *Jewish Daily Courier*, 1893-1947. Newspaper microfilm agreements were made with the national libraries of Brazil and Venezuela for four major newspapers in each country. And, as a footnote to our technological age, the Library is now receiving 600 computer periodicals.

Exchange programs constitute the greatest single source of new materials for the Library of Congress. In addition, the Copyright Office provides the Library's custodial divisions with an opportunity to select materials for addition to the collections from among those registered for copyright.

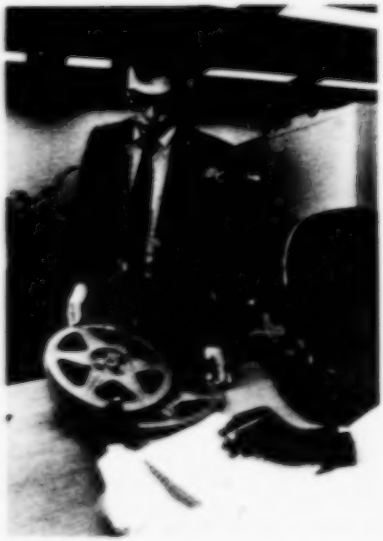
The Overseas Operations Division also adds substantially to the Library's collections through its suppliers in Brazil, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, and elsewhere. A meeting of the field directors of the Library's overseas offices was held in New Delhi this year, the first such meeting since 1977 and the fifth since the program began. The topics discussed included automation of the field offices for administrative and bibliographic functions, the gradual shifting of responsibility for particular cataloging functions to the field office staff, and administrative procedures. The participants were able to tour the Library facilities in India and observe the operation of the Overseas Data Entry System, installed last year to provide machine-readable-cataloging data for library materials processed in India. The Cairo office has begun to process Turkish acquisitions, which are shipped directly to that office from Turkey. Iranian publications are shipped to the Karachi office from blanket-order vendors in Iran.

The Library's Exchange and Gift Division reported that exchange and purchase receipts from the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America, and the Caribbean showed a healthy increase this year. Intensive acquisitions fieldwork is under way in Ecuador, northern Mexico, and Venezuela (for legal materials) through arrangements with area specialists. Special attention has also been given to the acquisition of nonbook materials such as videotapes, sound recordings, posters, and political and counterculture publications. Among other countries from which publications have been received, the Library was pleased to extend the experiment with the National Library of China for six months, during which bound copies of Chinese materials were received in official exchange.

In August the Deputy Librarian of Congress welcomed a delegation led by the Deputy Director of the National Library of China. Shown here are (left to right) Warren Tsuneishi, Director for Area Studies, LC; Qiao Ling, Deputy Chief, Foreign Relations Section, NLC; John C. Broderick, Assistant Librarian for Research Services, LC; William J. Welsh, Deputy Librarian of Congress; Henriette D. Avram, Assistant Librarian for Processing Services, LC; Hu Sha, Deputy Director, NLC; Li Daolong, Deputy Chief, Automation Development Department, NLC; Zhu Nan, Chief, Professional Management Division, NLC; Li Renmin, Chief, Department of Acquisitions and Cataloging for Western-Language Books, NLC; and Tao-tai Hsia, Chief, Far Eastern Law Division, LC.

Copyright and the Collections

For 115 years the Copyright Office has been vital to the Library of Congress, providing the backbone of the Library's collections. Under a law enacted in 1870, authors are required to submit samples of their work as part of the process of registering the work for copyright protection. These materials—books, music, plays, motion pictures, and all manner of other created works—now come to the Library at the rate of more than half a million a year. The Library selects thousands of copyright submissions for its general collections. The volume and complexity of the copyright operation are such that a wide variety of special procedures have been developed to ensure maximum efficiency. This year, in addition to a new telephone answering system to deal with its hundreds of daily incoming calls, the office also initiated a fully automated tracking system, making it possible to provide an officewide



The Copyright Office, a department of the Library of Congress, is a source of many materials for the Library's collections. Selections are made from the thousands of items that come in daily for copyright registration. The process begins in the Public Information Office, where this motion picture is being presented for registration.

A technician in the Examining Division inspects newly arrived motion pictures.

Each application for copyright registration is given a sequential number.

Specialists examine every item submitted for registration, including motion pictures and videocassettes.

For each item copyrighted, a certificate of registration is prepared and sent to the remitter.

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online record of fee services and to monitor the workflow through the office.

The Copyright Office also advises the Congress in matters relating to the relationship between copyright law and new technology. This year the office held a public hearing to assist in determining whether low-power television signals would be considered local or distant under the compulsory license provision of the Copyright Act when those signals are retransmitted by cable television systems. Public comment was also invited regarding issues relating to the implementation of the Semiconductor Chip Protection Act of 1984.

The Copyright Office, along with the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, recommended the Brussels Satellite Convention to the U.S. Senate for ratification. When the Senate ratified the convention, it took an important step toward worldwide cooperation in the international protection of copyrighted programming carried via satellite.

A report requested by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks, Committee of the Judiciary, was transmitted to the Congress in December to assist that body in considering the impact of changes in copyright legislation.

The Copyright Office also participates in the Permanent Program for Development Cooperation of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The work of the organization is to assist lesser developed nations in establishing effective methods for administering their copyright laws. Other international issues of concern to the Copyright Office this year have related to copyright protection of databases, private copying of materials, video and audio rental, and computer software.

Housing the Collections

The nucleus of the Library of Congress is a complex of three large buildings across from the U.S. Capitol. The green dome of the Thomas Jefferson Building, completed in 1897, is a landmark in Washington, and architects have referred to its Main Reading Room, surrounded by balconies and richly decorated, as one of the nation's "great spaces." The building is a favorite site for visitors in general and photographers in particular. The John Adams Building, designed at the height of the art deco period, was opened in 1939. And the James Madison Memorial Building, the largest of the Library's three buildings and, in fact, currently the largest library building in the world, opened its doors to the public in 1980.

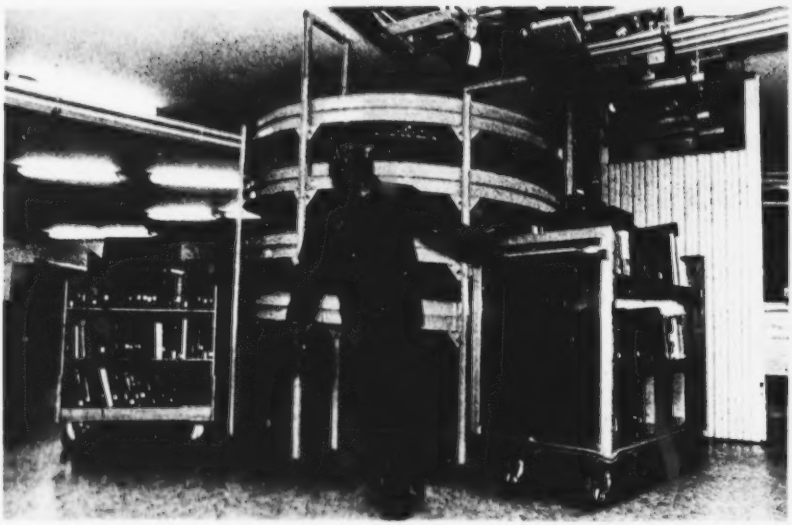
In addition to its Capitol Hill buildings the Library has satellite facilities at a number of other locations. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is located in a leased build-

At its warehouse in Landover, Maryland, the Procurement and Supply Division handles items that range all the way from paper clips to large desks.

ing on Taylor Street NW, the Federal Research Division is at the Washington Navy Yard, a film preservation facility is at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, and warehouse facilities and Procurement and Supply Division offices are in Landover, Maryland. Altogether, the Library occupies nearly four million square feet of space.

Renovation plans for the Thomas Jefferson Building and the John Adams Building proceeded on target this year, beginning a phased program of relocation of services. Work was completed on reconstruction of the foundation and restoration of the stone paving of the Neptune Plaza and the adjacent fountain, and demolition and construction work were initiated on the fourth floor of the Adams Building. Some staff members and scholars were relocated so that work could begin in the upper deck areas of the Jefferson Building.

Segments of the General Reading Room Division, Loan Division, and Collections Management Division have been relocated within the Jefferson Building in preparation for the renovation and restoration of the building. In the Adams Building, technical reports were relocated. Heavy winds and rains generated by Hurricane Gloria damaged the Library's Navy Yard Annex, delaying a scheduled expansion of the Federal Research Division.



The Collections Management Division is responsible for organizing and maintaining the Library's general book collections and for providing requested materials to readers as expeditiously as possible. Books are moved from the stacks to the Jefferson Building Control Room on the book conveyer shown here in the background. A vertical conveyer is then used to transport the books to the circulation desk in the Main Reading Room. After use the books are returned to the stacks on book carts for reshelving.

As the buildings underwent necessary renovation, restoration, and modification to improve services, the skill of the staff who design the landscaping and maintain the grounds of the Library's Capitol Hill buildings continued to be evident in the superb appearance of the property. During the year the plantings around the Jefferson Building were adjusted to create better balance in relation to the building.

To increase efficiency and make it possible to offer more diversified foods, an important behind-the-scenes modification was made in the kitchen area of the attractive glass-walled cafeteria on the sixth floor of the Madison Building. Improvements were also introduced in the food facilities in the three buildings.

Access to the Collections

When a researcher enters the Library of Congress for the first time he or she usually feels a great sense of being engulfed by its immensity. The miracle of the collections is that, in the main, they *are* organized and cataloged. There *are* people who know how to locate materials for the reader, usually in less than an hour from the time a request is received. Using the Library has not always been so easy, however. By the 1870s the Library had outgrown its rooms in the Capitol and

was in dire need of additional space. Librarian Ainsworth Rand Spofford reported in 1877 that "nearly seventy thousand volumes . . . are now piled upon the floors in all directions" and that "students, and especially ladies, are deterred from frequenting the Library of Congress, because of the difficulty of procuring seats therein."

Today, with tremendous assistance from state-of-the-art technology, the Processing Services department provides cataloging expertise that serves the public and library constituents throughout the world. This year has seen strategic planning through which appropriate processing goals were defined for a period of fiscal austerity. Action plans are to follow which will project objectives, products, and services for the next five years.

The Library of Congress and the Research Libraries Group agreed to plan a nationwide program for coordinated cataloging that would include other research libraries as participants. The goal will be to enhance access to library materials and rationalize shared cataloging in order to enhance processing efficiency. The optimal interrelationship of collection development, preservation, and cataloging will also be studied. Cooperative efforts with divisions elsewhere in the Library produced the Serials Location System (SERLOC)—an online serials application that contained approximately twenty-five thousand contractor-input records by the end of the year. Core data elements from Serial Record Division check-in records are being converted to machine-readable form for initial use by Library staff and for later use in building the serials management system. Other cooperative efforts within the Library will aid in finding audiovisual materials and materials from the Prints and Photographs Division. Processing Services also continued to work on the development of an online system for the production of the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections.*

Automation

The serious researcher visiting the Library will need to search some of the more than seven million records in the computer databases in addition to conventional card catalogs and indexes. The Automated Systems Office operates one of the largest computerized information service centers in the world and serves as a nerve center for all automation throughout the Library.

Online availability of the central processing units averaged 99 percent by the end of the fiscal year. The various online systems, which are supported 96.5 hours per week, processed approximately four million transactions each month while servicing 2,217 terminals located on Capitol Hill and at other sites. By the end of the year the Computer Service Center had replaced 250 Four Phase terminals with new Comterm devices to support online cataloging and searching of the various Library databases. The remaining older terminals are due to be

Conferees at the American Library Association's 1985 midwinter meeting learn more about automation at LC through hands-on experience at terminals located in the Information Place, a facility set up in the Madison Building for the occasion.

replaced beginning in January 1986.

In addition to the many direct benefits that automation has brought to researchers at the Library of Congress, the public has benefited indirectly from the efforts of advances in automation in such specialized units as the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Music Division, and the Copyright Office.

Preserving the Library's Treasures

Annual loss of the Library's valuable materials through deterioration can be as high as 77,000 volumes, according to Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh, who has played a leading role in the Library's preservation efforts. The problem is created by acid used in the papermaking process which causes the paper fibers to become weak after twenty-five to a hundred years. Eventually the paper crumbles to dust.

The problem of preserving the collections is being addressed in a number of ways, the most dramatic of which is the planned Mass Book Deacidification Facility at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

The years of planning and testing that will culminate in the operation of the new facility began in the 1970s, when the Library's preservation research staff began tests with seven or eight volumes using an ordinary kitchen pressure cooker. They developed a diethyl zinc (DEZ) treatment process that restored the alkaline content to the paper and retarded embrittlement. Their research was eventually tested in 1982 with five thousand volumes in a huge vacuum chamber previously used

for testing materials for outer space. The large-scale tests, accomplished in cooperation with Goddard Space Flight Center and Northrup, Inc., were followed by twelve smaller tests to obtain data on optimizing process conditions. Paper materials given the DEZ process are estimated to have an extended life of up to six hundred years.

Preservation of materials is proceeding on other fronts as well, some of which are as revolutionary for libraries as the DEZ process. The Optical Disk Pilot Program, which began three years ago, is designed to study the expediency of transferring print and graphic images to disks and supplying them to the user on screens, with on-demand printout capability.

The system has the advantages of compact storage, preservation, and immediate user access. The Library's first optical (video) disk user station opened in 1984 in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, where eight collections of rare print material consisting of a total of forty thousand images were available on a single side of a twelve-inch disk. Later, digital optical disks were produced for storing printed library materials, including periodicals, maps, manuscripts, and sheet music. A one-sided digital disk can store up to fifteen thousand pages of text. This year saw great progress toward providing the public with a full-text retrieval system. The first phase of the program, which included obtaining the hardware and software needed to scan and write optical disk images, was completed. Following installation, testing, and achievement of stability, existing inhouse indexing sources were used to scan documents associated with those systems; document preparation procedures were developed, input scanning and quality review were implemented, and staff were trained to utilize the procedures on a daily basis. Over thirty-one hundred documents from the CRS bibliographic database (1983-85), for which LC has received copyright permission or which belong in the public domain, were gathered to create a database. Research librarians who were involved in an evaluation of the system found no major flaws and advised that the optical disk's primary usefulness may be as an access tool. The duration of the pilot program was extended to December 1986, in order to create a larger database before opening the system to the public. The Library's pioneering work in optical disk storage continues to provoke wide interest and bring visitors to the Library from government agencies, corporations, and universities.

Preservation copying programs, which have been in operation for over twenty years, were also reviewed in fiscal 1985. Besides use of the new technologies such as the optical disk, the Library will continue its involvement in interlibrary cooperative preservation efforts, since it is unlikely that adequate funding will ever be available to preserve everything in the Library's collections by current methods.

Serving the Congress

The Library of Congress was established in 1800 for the exclusive use of the United States Congress, but by midcentury, noncongressional users were permitted in the Library. On June 12, 1858, Sen. James Alfred Pearce, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, noted that visitors "are, in fact, allowed the use of books by reading them while there, and the means of making notes of what they read are readily furnished. They are also cheerfully aided by the Librarian and assistants in making researches." Although the collections of the Library of Congress remain highly accessible to the public, the Library still recognizes its responsibility to serve the Congress for which it was created.

The expertise of the staff of the Library's Congressional Research Service is a key element in the orientation of new Members of Congress. This year CRS again teamed up with the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute to cosponsor a seminar for new Members of Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia. In addition, lists of subjects suitable for policy analysis by committees of the 99th Congress were prepared. A major project involving all CRS research divisions was the preparation of *The 99th Congress: Selected Emerging Legislative Issues.*

Orienting new lawmakers is only the beginning, of course. Throughout the year CRS held individual and group briefings, institutes for

The Inquiry Section of the Congressional Research Service receives, records, and distributes requests from Members of Congress and their staffs for information and research on issues of legislative interest. During fiscal 1985 the section processed 251,384 inquiries.

Member and committee staffs and for field office staffs, information seminars, and special programs on such topics as the future of Medicare, agricultural food policy, and the federal budget.

Many noncongressional visitors were also given briefings on the mission of CRS and its services. Among them were more than 300 Members of Parliament and parliamentary librarians, as well as 141 cabinet-level officers of foreign governments. Visitors from abroad often find the presence in a national library of a department such as the Congressional Research Service to be a new concept.

In March the Congressional Reading Room in the Madison Building was officially renamed the La Follette Congressional Reading Room in honor of Senators Robert M. La Follette and Robert M. La Follette, Jr., of Wisconsin. A daylong symposium on the importance of legislative research preceded the renaming ceremony, which was attended by Members of Congress as well as members of the La Follette family.

During 1984 the demand for CRS's popular Info Packs broke all records. The packets provide regularly updated information on more than three hundred current issues for Members of Congress and their staffs. Some of the most popular topics this year were tax reform issues, legislative procedures, grants and fundraising, financial aid to undergraduates, and the federal budget process. More than fifteen thousand Info Packs were distributed monthly.

A more substantial, multidisciplinary report was prepared on poverty among children. Produced at the request of the House Ways and Means Committee, the 670-page volume, entitled *Children in Poverty*, received front-page coverage in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*. CRS studies on recent advances in plant sciences, information technology, and energy management, among other topics, were published as committee prints.

A major two-volume work, *Legislation on Foreign Relations through 1984: Current Legislation and Related Executive Orders*, was compiled at the request of the pertinent House and Senate committees.

As a service to school systems throughout the nation, CRS again produced the annual high school and college debate manuals. This year's topics were "What is the most effective water policy for the United States?" and "Should more rigorous academic standards be established for all public elementary and/or secondary schools in the United States?," respectively.

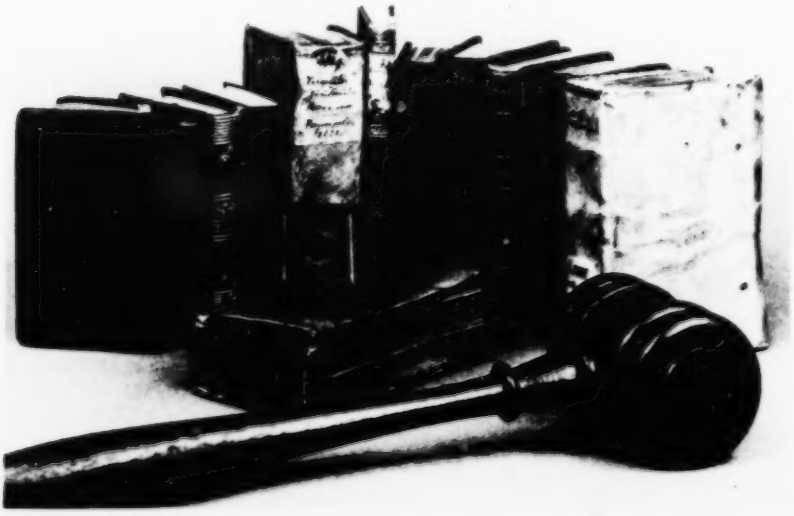
The Law Library

The Law Library, which serves Congress as well as many other users, houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of foreign, international, and comparative law. When legislation is before the Congress, requests from Member and committee staffs require immediate responses. Among the topics covered in recent congressional requests for information were the ways in which other countries regulate hazardous waste, foreign Individual Retirement Accounts or similar mechanisms for sheltering income, how other nations control hostile corporate takeovers and mergers, restrictions placed on campaign financing in foreign countries, and legal mechanisms used around the world to either encourage or discourage foreign investments.

In addition to report writing, legal interpretation and analysis, and reference assistance, the Law Library staff provided a number of other services to users. Law Library specialists served as expert witnesses in Cuban and in English law, various special briefings were conducted, and work on matters relating to extradition agreements was undertaken for the Congress.

The Law Library hosted a reception for the Association of American Law Schools in January, with the Justices of the Supreme Court as honored guests among the more than two thousand persons who attended.

A twelve-minute film about the services and resources of the Law Library, *Legacy of Law*, produced with a grant from Mead Data Cen-



A sampling of the miniature and small lawbooks that were on display in the Law Library Reading Room from August 5 through October 3.

tral, Inc., was completed in time to premiere at the July meeting of the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C. The film was used at a workshop for teachers of legal research and was selected for worldwide distribution by the United States Information Agency. It was also nominated for a Council on International Non-Theatrical Events (CINE) Golden Eagle Award. The film is available for purchase or rental.

The Law Library also hosted symposia on comparative libel law at American Bar Association meetings in Washington and London.

Serving Other Branches of Government

Like the Congressional Research Service, the Library's Federal Research Division is staffed by experts who know how to tap the vast resources of the collections for specific information.

The Federal Research Division is devoted exclusively to performing foreign-language and international research and analysis for other government agencies and is largely supported by supplying contracted services in the form of reports and analyses to these agencies. Its staff of more than two hundred is divided into five areas of expertise: Western Europe/Latin America, Middle East/Africa, Asia, USSR/Eastern Europe (military, political, economic), and USSR/Eastern Europe (scientific and technical). The division staff are competent in some thirty languages.

Serving the Public

The Library's reading rooms are living testimony to the years of collecting, cataloging, binding, preserving, and shelving that have built the world's largest library. An interesting trend in the use of the reading rooms was revealed in figures which indicated that, although peak periods of use during the year remained the same, the valleys ceased to be as obvious. In other words, use over the year gradually seems to be evening out.

The Library of Congress is the most "open" of the national libraries, offering exceptionally broad services to scholars and the general public alike. During fiscal 1985 the General Reading Rooms and the Law Library were open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M., Saturday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Most of the special reading rooms were open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Another advance in reader service, and an indication of the close working relationship between the Library of Congress and other libraries, occurred when Arizona became the thirty-eighth state to join the reference correspondence referral program adopted by the Library. The program refers appropriate correspondence back to libraries within

the state from which a letter of inquiry is written. This approach gives the correspondent, who often is not aware of state resources, an opportunity to become acquainted with and consult authorities within his or her own state and at the same time provides recognition and involvement for state library systems.

Reader services at the Library of Congress were enhanced during the year by a joint Processing Services and Research Services project which detailed eight catalogers to the Computer Catalog Center for a four-month period. The project, which at the end of the year had enrolled another eight participants, gave catalogers an opportunity to meet and work with users whose research depended upon the catalogers' skills. Interdepartmental exchanges such as this have been found to benefit not only the Library and its users but also the staff.

A special service for blind and physically handicapped readers has made it possible for *all* who wish to read to be served by the Library of Congress. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped can trace its origins back to the opening of the Thomas Jefferson Building in 1897, when a special reading room for blind people was established. In 1931 President Herbert Hoover signed into law an appropriation bill creating the Books for the Adult Blind Project, to be operated by the Library of Congress. Today NLS/BPH not only is the publisher of a wide variety of materials distributed by regional libraries throughout the country but also has pioneered

In the recording studio of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a volunteer narrates a book on audio tape. The service offers books and periodicals for free circulation on disc and cassette and in braille to more than 600,000 people annually.

in producing tape players and other equipment that is circulated without charge.

This year the fiftieth anniversary of the Talking Book was celebrated at a ceremony and reception in New York City. More than two hundred guests paid tribute to the American Foundation for the Blind for developing the technology for the first Talking Book, to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for distributing the earliest recorded books, and to the American Printing House for the Blind for helping produce them.

A high-visibility label with the word "Blindpost" printed in black over an orange background has been distributed to libraries and agencies around the world who serve blind and physically handicapped individuals. The label is designed to speed the passage of braille and recorded books across international borders, through customs and international mail. Most countries carry the material tariff-free.

Among new printed materials are a reference circular, *Parents' Guide to the Development of Preschool Handicapped Children: Resources and Services;* a new catalog of foreign-language books; and an *International Directory of Tactile Map Collections.* The directory contains a comprehensive list of tactile maps available for use, loan, or sale throughout the world.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has launched a yearlong study to reconsider the reading needs of visually handicapped children, reevaluate the service's materials in relation to those needs, and recommend a plan of action. Largely because of the emphasis on mainstreaming in the schools, there is increasing concern that the reading needs of visually handicapped children be stimulated and met.

Bringing the Collections to Life

The collections of the Library of Congress are not only under constant use by researchers but are often the basis for public programs as well. Exhibits, symposia, dramatic readings, music performances, lectures, motion picture screenings, and folk art demonstrations regularly bring the Library's vast and diverse resources to the attention of the general public.

The music programs, including concerts by the Juilliard String Quartet playing the Library's priceless Stradivarius instruments, are recognized as being among the finest chamber music presentations in the nation. Musical highlights during fiscal 1985 included the Second Festival of American Chamber Music in the spring as well as the Juilliard Quartet's performance of Bach's *The Art of the Fugue* and Haydn's *The Seven Last Words.* The Beaux Arts Trio played all eleven Beethoven trios in February and March. On February 11 Andrew Porter discussed his new translation of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot*

The Ana Martinez flamenco dancers performed on the Neptune Plaza in front of the Thomas Jefferson Building in September. Part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Week, the program was one of a series of American Folklife Center outdoor events held throughout the summer months on the plaza.

Lunaire, which was then featured in a concert on February 12. The Bach and Handel tricentennials were celebrated in a concert by the Aulos Ensemble.

Robert Fitzgerald, Consultant in Poetry for 1984-85, was unable to assume his duties due to illness and Reed Whittemore was appointed interim consultant to complete the year. Mr. Fitzgerald died in January and a program of poetry, translations, and music was held in his memory on April 30. Gwendolyn Brooks, who was appointed Consultant in Poetry for 1985-86, opened the fall literary program with a

Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, was named Consultant in Poetry for 1985-86. The consultantship was established in the Library of Congress in 1936 with funds donated by Archer M. Huntington. Miss Brooks is the twenty-ninth person appointed to the position.

reading from her work. The program attracted an audience of more than six hundred, filling the Coolidge Auditorium and Whittall Pavilion, while some two hundred others had to be turned away. Miss Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner, is the twenty-ninth person to be appointed to the consultantship, which was established in 1936 through a gift by the late Archer M. Huntington.

Other notable literary programs during the year included a reading by poet, playwright, and performer Maya Angelou, a lecture by Richard Ellmann on Samuel Beckett, a musical-dramatic program on the work of Bertholt Brecht, and a discussion and reading of contemporary Israeli poetry.

A Saturday afternoon series of movies for children was presented in the sixty-four-seat Mary Pickford Theater in the Madison Building. Other series of presentations from the collections were "From Silence to Sound, 1923-30," neglected films selected by Washington film reviewers, "American Screenwriters," and a festival of recent Brazilian television productions. The second anniversary of the theater was celebrated with a special invitational program on Ginger Rogers's films that included a discussion by Miss Rogers and Charles (Buddy) Rogers. The theater's summer program featured a Jason Robards retrospective. Mr. Robards, appearing in person at the opening of the series, delighted an overflow audience in the Mumford Room with a discussion of his work on the stage and in films and television, a program to which director Jose Quintero also contributed.

Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges (seated on the left) was interviewed by his friend and translator Alastair Reid for the Hispanic Division's Latin American Writers Videotape Series.

In cooperation with the Center for the Book, the Geography and Map Division arranged a two-day conference entitled "Images of the World" in October to coincide with a major exhibition of the Library's atlas collection. In March a two-day international conference, "Innovation and Tradition in the Arabic Sciences," was sponsored by the

The Library participated in the Festival of India, celebrated nationwide, with an exhibition called "Discovering India." Books, pictures, maps, manuscripts, and other items from the collections were on display, including this painting of a toymaker from an 1825 manuscript.

African and Middle Eastern Division's Near East Section. The exhibit "Discovering India" opened in June.

The American Folklife Center sponsored a wide variety of programs this year. The *Kalevala*, Finland's national folk epic, and Finnish identity in Finland and America were discussed at a symposium arranged with the assistance of the Embassy of Finland in January. A glimpse of another culture was provided in the program "Tops/Trompos" in October. Preparation of dough ornaments and festive cookies was demonstrated in November, and the culture of cranberry-growing regions of New Jersey was explored in December. The Folklife Center received a grant of over $118,000 from the Ford Foundation for a two-year project to distribute previously prepared tapes or disks of early wax cylinder recordings. The funds will make it possible for the center to make the recordings available to American Indian tribal archives and cultural organizations for educational purposes. A record of Omaha Indian music from a wax cylinder was placed on sale to the public this year. The American Folklife Center continued with its Grouse Creek Cultural Survey in northwestern Utah and its documentation of the Pinelands Folklife Project in New Jersey.

One of the Library's most active offices is the Center for the Book, which continued its promotion of books and reading through a variety of projects, lectures, symposia, and special events. Private contributions support the center's programs, which this year included a dinner in the Great Hall in December to celebrate the completion of a report to the Congress by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin entitled

Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, accepting the report Books in Our Future *from Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin at a press conference on December 7, 1984.*

Books in Our Future and the opening of a special exhibition entitled "The Book and Other Machines." A six-color silkscreen poster created for the center by artist Lance Hidy was unveiled on the occasion. The center also sponsored a reception and program on U.S. books abroad during the midwinter American Library Association meeting. In addition to a program presented in cooperation with the Geography and Map Division, mentioned previously, the center cosponsored a symposium entitled "Stepping Away from Tradition: Children's Books of the 1920s and 1930s" with the Children's Literature Center. The Center for the Book continued its cooperation with commercial television networks to promote reading through "Read More About It" and "Storybreak" messages of encouragement and booklists on CBS as well as Cap'n O. G. Readmore's rhymed boost to reading for youthful viewers of ABC Television. In addition, CBS Radio is using "Read More About It" messages. The slogan "A Nation of Readers," which was used on a U.S. postage stamp with an etching from the Library's collections, was also adopted by the American Library Association as the theme for National Library Week. State Centers for the Book modeled after the Library's Center were opened this year in Florida and Illinois.

The Library's Children's Literature Center reaches out not only through such programs as the symposium on children's books of the 1920s and 1930s and the booklists it supplies to CBS's "Storybreak" and other programs but is constantly serving children's book editors, librarians, curators, writers, and illustrators. Under the direction of the center, a consultant has begun surveying the rich holdings of children's books and nonprint materials that are in the custody of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and the Area Studies divisions of Research Services. During the year the center has advised users from the news media, government agencies, publishing houses, libraries, cultural institutions, and foreign governments, as well as individual researchers. The center has also been host to numerous distinguished writers, some of whom have read from their books for audio tapes to be placed in the Library's archives.

The Educational Liaison Office works directly with the public, conducting tours and arranging appointments with Library staff. Almost five thousand distinguished visitors were received during fiscal 1985, including the wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Ambassadors from Chile, Egypt, the Netherlands, St. Lucia, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Greece, India, and Ecuador, delegations from the People's Republic of China, and Members of the Parliaments of Argentina, Jordan, Australia, Spain, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Uruguay, the Netherlands, Sudan, Thailand, Sierra Leone, and the Federal Republic of Germany. The office also arranged a U.S. itinerary for a Chinese study group on computers led by the Deputy Director of the National Library of China. The Library's Special Events Office coordinated

arrangements for many official functions and meetings, including receptions held in connection with the White House News Photographers Association's exhibition, the "Discovering India" exhibition, and the "Evening with Jason Robards."

The Council and General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) was held in the United States for the first time in eleven years, and delegates from around the world took the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress on their way to the meeting in Chicago. Deputy Librarian William J. Welsh hosted national librarians for two days in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries. Special tours and other events were planned for members of IFLA committees for parliamentary librarians and librarians serving the blind and physically handicapped.

The Exhibits Office mounted eleven major exhibits and six smaller exhibits this fiscal year. In addition, the office worked with the Copyright Office in setting up a permanent copyright exhibit and with the Law Library in preparing a display of miniature lawbooks. Of particular interest were exhibitions of English caricatures from 1620 to the present, American art posters from 1962 through 1984, and items from the Prints and Photographs Division that had been acquired

One of the most popular and critically acclaimed actresses on the American stage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Minnie Maddern Fiske (1864-1932) was the subject of an exhibition at the Performing Arts Library at the Kennedy Center in April. Included in the exhibit, a joint project of the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center, was this poster from the Library's collections.

during the past five years. "Mrs. Fiske!"—a show mounted at the Performing Arts Library—drew on materials from the theater collections to tell the story of American actress Minnie Maddern Fiske. The Library also circulated eight traveling exhibits to thirty-four institutions.

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee arranged for workshops, conferences, and publications in which federal librarians could share information and technical expertise. The Microcomputer Demonstration Center served a steadily increasing number of visiting individuals and small groups who wished to discuss their plans for the use of microcomputers in their libraries. The Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK) grew to some seven hundred agency libraries, becoming one of the top three library networks in terms of membership. It is the only library network operating nationwide.

The amount of information about the Library of Congress carried in the press, on radio, and on television reached an all-time high this year. Stories about Library activities were carried by every major national newspaper, news magazine, and television network and in the foreign media as well. The media showed particular interest in the Librarian's *Books in Our Future* report, in an evening honoring George and Ira Gershwin, and in the appointment of Gwendolyn Brooks as Consultant in Poetry.

Actress Shelley Duvall visited the Main Reading Room on July 30 to tape a series of public service announcements concerning reading for her "Faerie Tale Theater." The television spots will suggest related book titles supplied by the Children's Literature Center.

The Information Office initiated reading promotion messages by actress Shelley Duvall that will follow her popular "Faerie Tale Theatre" series. The messages are the first of their kind to be carried on cable television. The office also worked with CBS Television News on "American Treasury," a series of a hundred one-minute programs presenting interesting facts from the Library's collections. In a program entitled "Reading Rainbow," Public Television will take children behind the scenes to see how the Library delivers books to readers and how the Library's preservation specialists are working to prevent deterioration of the collections.

In addition to the collection and storage of materials, the Library must create "finding aids" that will make those materials accessible to potential users. Publications are one of the most important ways in which information about the collections is made available to the public. Every department of the Library carries on some type of publishing activity—from the highly specialized materials produced by the Processing Services divisions to publications of more general interest prepared by custodial divisions and produced through the Publishing Office.

A publication that drew particular attention this year was *Halley's Comet: A Bibliography*, by Ruth Frietag. This definitive guide includes 3,235 entries, encompasses several languages, and reaches as far back as the fifteenth century. Volume 11 of *Letters of Delegates to Congress,*

This year the Publishing Office brought out facsimiles of nineteenth-century children's "shape books," based on the original die-cut editions in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. The facsimiles were a popular sales item in the Library's gift shop.

1774-1789 continued an important historical series, while *Wonderful Inventions: Motion Pictures, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound at the Library of Congress* documented revolutionary discoveries in the more recent past. Another valuable book for film scholars is *Early Motion Pictures: The Paper Print Collection in the Library of Congress*, by Kemp R. Niver, which describes three thousand early films that the author recreated from paper contact prints submitted to the Library as copyright deposits.

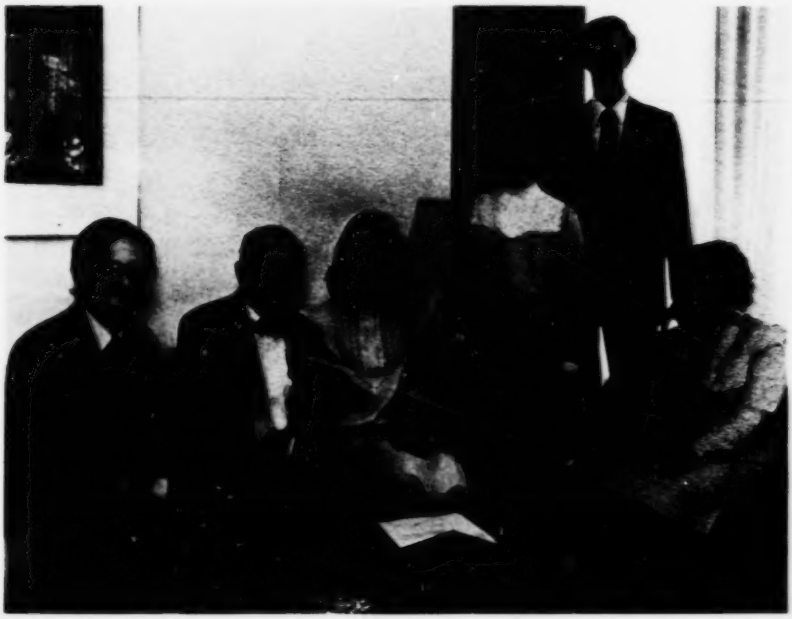
In another major new work, *Slavery in the Courtroom: An Annotated Bibliography of American Cases*, based on the Library's collection of pamphlet literature on the law of slavery, Paul Finkelman analyzes more than fifty cases, discussing the historical and legal significance of each.

Although the Library has an extensive internal program to preserve and publish selected collections and materials in microform, efforts are continually under way to work with commercial micropublishers to further the Library's aims. Recent cooperative projects included micropublication of city directories for eleven large U.S. cities for 1902-35, with work having begun on the filming of directories of fifty-five additional cities covering the same period. A second project will involve the production of a microfiche publication of the *Records of the Federal Writers' Project: Printed and Mimeograph Publications, 1933-43*. The Photoduplication Service published free circulars

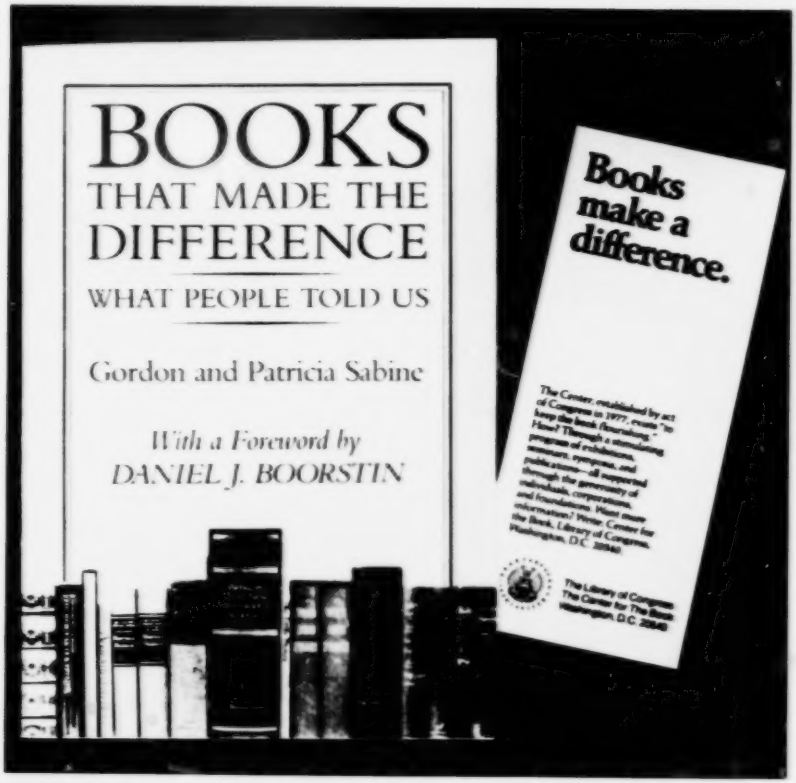
Library of Congress employees and their families welcome Santa to the annual carol sing in the Great Hall, sponsored by the Welfare and Recreation Association.

on significant research collections available on microfilm.

Materials published by the American Folklife Center included *American Folk Music and Folklore Recordings 1983: A Selected List.* Among the publications sponsored by the Center for the Book were *Books in Action: The Armed Services Editions* and the texts of a number of lectures presented by the center. *New Technologies in Book Distribution: the United States Experience* was published for the center by Unesco, and an abridged edition of *Books That Made a Difference* was published and distributed by the Book-of-the-Month Club.



On April 10 Mary Trottier (third from left), winner of the 1985 "Books Make a Difference" essay contest sponsored by the Xerox Education Corporation, toured the Library of Congress. Here Miss Trottier, an eighth-grade student from Kennebunk, Maine, along with her family and Scott Ingram (far left), associate editor of Xerox's READ *magazine, meet with Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin.*



Books That Made the Difference, *the Book-of-the-Month Club edition of the report by Gordon and Patricia Sabine, included more than 200 readers' answers to the questions "What book made the greatest difference in your life?" and "What difference did it make?"*